(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Question does not arise.

Dwindling population of wild animals in reserve forests

225. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the population of the endangered animals, including lions, tigers and elephants, is dwindling in the reserve forests each passing year; and

(b) if so, the details for the last three years and action proposed to be taken to protect these animals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Fluctuation in the population of wildlife is a natural phenomenon. The status of population of wild animals on a yearly basis is not collected at Government of India level. As per the information available with the Ministry, there are no reports to indicate a continuous sharp decline in the population of endangered species in general. However, habitat degradation and other distrubances can have adverse effrect on the natural population of wildlife. The All India Estimation of Tiger, co-predators and its prey was carried out recently in the tiger range States of the country using a modified and integrated methodology as recommended by the Tiger Task Force. The details are given in the enclosed Statement-I *See* below. However, in view of the modified new methodology adopted in the process, which is a benchmark in itself, it cannot be compared with the previous estimation of wild animals. Similarly the all India enumeration of wild population of elephants in the country was carried out in 2007, except the North Eastern States. The details are given in the enclosed Statement-II *(See* below*)*.

The steps taken by Government of India to protect wildlife and prevent poaching are as under:

1. The Central Government has enacted the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, to deal with the issues of wildlife crime. Stringent penalties are imposed on the offenders for the contravention of the provisions of the Act.
2. A network of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries has been set up across the country to protect wildlife.
3. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, with a network a five Regional and three Sub Regional Offices, has been set up to control wildlife crime.
4. Financial support is being provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme— *Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger and Project Elephant,* to State/UT Governments for the conservation and development of wildlife and its habitats.
5. India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) that regulates international trade in wildlife and its derivatives.
6. India has bilateral arrangements with China and Nepal on combating wildlife crime.

In addition, the State/UT Governments have also taken the following measures to protect wild animals.

1. Intensive patrolling in sensitive areas.
2. Coordination with other law enforcement agencies.

3. Provision for arms and ammunition, and communication facilities.
4. Conducting nature awarenes campaigess for the public.
5. Soliciting co-operation from the local communities in wildlife conservation.

Statement-I

Details of forest occupancy of Tigers, Co-Predators, Prey and population estimates of Tigers

State	Tiger	Leopard	Dhol	Sloth Beer	Chital	Samal	Wild Pig	Nilgai	Tiger Numbers		
	km²	km²	km²	km²	km2	ar km²	km²	km²	No.	Lower limit	Upper limit
Shivalik-Gangetic Plain Landscape Complex											
Uttarakhand	190 1	3683	-	853	2161	2756	321 4	422	178	161	195
Uttar Pradesh	276 6	2936	190	313 0	5537	2671	776 ·1	837 5	109	91	127
Bihar	510	552	323	532	576	321	570	494	10	7	13
Shivalik-Gangetic	517 7	7171	513	451 5	8274	5718	115 45	929 1	297	259	335
Central Indian Landscape Complex and Eastern Ghats landscape Complex											
Andhra Pradesh	141 26	37609	410 93	546 73	37814	33159	583 36	265 26	95	84	107
Chhattisgarh	360 9	14939	379 4	209 51	18540	7604	250 58	925 0	26	23	28
Madhya Pradesh	156 14	34736	285 08	409 59	41509	33551	599 033	417 04	300	236	364
Maharashtra	427 3	4982	435 2	655 7	5970	5730	737 0	475 4	103	76	131
Orissa	914 4	25516	821 5	432 36	6040	611	215 25	711	45	37	53
Rajasthan	356	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32	30	35
Jharkhand**	148 8	131	-	264 0	721	721	622 6	110 8	Not Assessed		
Central Indian	486 10	131	859 62	264 0	721	721	622 6	110 8	601	486	718
Western Ghats Landscape Complex											
Karnataka	187 15	20506	158 62	207 49	42349	43412	219 99	-	290	241	339
Kerala	616 8	8363	108 01	690 4	2931	10469	880 9	-	46	39	53
Tamil Nadu	921 1	14484	196 58	132 24	13567	15909	197 68	250 5	76	56	95

State	Tiger	Leopard	Dhol	Sloth Beer	Chital	Samabar	Wild Pig	Nilgai	Tiger Numbers		
	km²	km²	km²	km²	km²	km²	km²	km²	No.	Lower limit	Upper limit
Western Ghats	340 94	43353	463 21	408 77	58847	69790	505 76	250 5	402	336	487
North East Hills and Brahmaputra Flood Plains											
Assam*	116 4	1500	285	380	-	270	204 7	-	70	60	80
Arunachal Pradesh*	168 5	670	675	199	-	353	412	-	14	12	18
Mizoram*	785	2324	776	479	-	1700	148	-	6	4	8
Northern West Bengal*	596	1135	301	-	280	309	491	-	10	8	12
North East Hills, and Brahmaputra	423	5629	203 7	105 8	280	2632	443 9	-	100	84	118
Sunderbans	158 6	-	-	-	1184	-	159 1	-	Not Assessed		
Total Tiger Population									141 1	1165	1667

* Population estimates are based on possible density of tiger occupied landscape in the area, not assessed by double sampling.

** Data was not amenable to population estimation of tiger. However, available information about the landscape indicates low densities of tiger in the area ranging from 0.5 to 1.5 per 100km².

Statement-II

Details of Estimated Population of Wild Elephants

Region	State	Elephant Population			
		1993	1997	2002	2007
North-East	Arunachal Pradesh	2102	1800	1607	-
	Assam	5524	5312	5246	
	Meghalaya	2872	1840	1868	
	Nagaland	178	158	145	-
	Mizoram	15	22	33	-
	Manipur	50	30	12	-
	Tripura	100	70	40	-

Region	State	Elephant Population			
		1993	1997	2002	2007
	West Bengal (North)	186	250	292	300-350
Total for North-East		**11027**	**9482**	**9243**	
East	West Bengal (South)	14	26	36	25
	Jharkhand	550	618	772	624
	Orissa	1750	1800	1841	1862
	Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	122
Total for East		**2314**	**2444**	**2649**	**2633**
North	Uttarakhand	828	1130	1582	1346
	Uttar Pradesh	47	70	85	380
Total for North		**875**	**1200**	**1667**	**1726**
South	Tamil Nadu	2307	2971	3052	3867
	Karnataka	5500	6088	5838	4035
	Kerala	3500	3600	3850	6068
	Andhra Pradesh	46	57	74	28
	Maharashtra	-	-	-	7
Total for South		**11353**	**12716**	**12814**	**140005**
Islands	**Andaman & Nicobar**	**35**	**35**	**40**	
Grand Total		**25604**	**22877**	**26413**	
Grand Total minus NE States		**14,577**	**16,395**	**17,170**	**18663**

US passport to an IFS officer

226. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note that an Indian Forest Service Officer in employment of the State of Jammu and Kashmir could manage to secure a US passport after changing his name while retaining his Indian Passport;

(b) if so, whether this matter has been taken up with US Government as also with the State Government concerned and their response thereto; and

(c) the action taken so far by Government against the concerned officer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Government of Jammu & Kashmir has *vide* letter No. FST/Ser/AA/88-I dated 14.11.2007 reported to the Ministry of Environment & Forests that one Indian Forest Service(IFS) officer of J&K cadre namely Shri Aijaz Ahmad Bhat @ Shah was